Revenue realised through hike in coal prices

493. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the additional revenue realised through the hike in coal prices, year-wise, during the last three years;

(b) on what grounds the prices of coal have been raised on each occasion;

(c) whether it is a fact that the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development had advised the Government for enhancement in the price of coal in order to cover the mounting losses; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b) Coal prices are revised by the Central Government from time to time on the basis of cost study keeping in view the various factors like increase in the cost of inputs, wages, incidence of depreciation and interest charges etc. During the last 3 years the coal prices were revised twice, one with effect from 8-1-1984 and other with effect from 9-1-1986. Additional revenue accrual of Coal India Limited during 1983-84, 1984-85 and 1985-86 on account of price revision with effect from 8-1-1984 were estimated as Rs. 127.54 crores, Rs. 466.00 crores and Rs. 472.00 crores respectively. Additional revenue accrual of Coal India Limited on account of price revision with effect from 9-1-1986 for the period from 9-1-1986 to 31-3-1986 is estimated to be Rs. 103 crores.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Attempts to find out oil resources in Tamil Nadu

494. SHRI N. RAJANGAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission had made any attempts to find out oil resources in Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, the particulars thereof and the present stage in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) ONGC have so far drilled 23 wells in the onland part of Cauvery Basin. At present, one well is under drilling at Thevur Drilling at another location is to start shortly.

So far, oil/gas has been discovered at Karaikal, Kovilkallapal and Narimanam, besides minor hydrocarbon indications at Madnam and Tiravarur.

495. [*Transferred to the 6th May*, 1986].

Quality Control/Price Control Centres for small and medium Industries

496. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the locations of Quality Control/Price Control Centres proposed to be set up for monitoring the price/quality of the products of small and medium industries in various places as promised by him in Delhi Doordarshan "Janvani" programme on 1st April, 1986;

(b) how many licences for various products, item wise, have been issued or recommended by D.I. Centres in Delhi to small and medium industrial units during 1985-86; and

(c) in what manner Government propose to curb the exploitation of consumers by private companies indulging in curtailing arbitrarily the sale area of stockists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) The reference to "Quality Circles" by Industry Minister in the Janvani programme on 1st April, 1986 was made as a Management concept with reference to industry generally and there was no intention to have Quality Control/Price Control Centres in the SSI